

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-27. (canceled)

28. (previously presented) A dietary supplement comprising:

- an immunomodulating component which is β -casomorphin 9, or an analogue or precursor thereof capable of releasing β -casomorphin 9 but substantially no β -casomorphin 7 during digestion in the gut of a mammal; and

- a fortifying component which is an effective amount of at least one compound capable, when consumed, of reducing plasma levels of homocyst(e)ine (tHcy) in a mammal, said compound being selected from the group comprising betaine, cobalamin, folic acid, pyridoxine, and pharmaceutically acceptable analogues thereof.

29. (previously presented) A dietary supplement as claimed in claim 28 where the immunomodulating component is derived from bovine milk.

30. (previously presented) A dietary supplement as claimed in claim 29 where the milk has a β -casein content which substantially excludes β -casein A1 and β -casein B.

31. (previously presented) A dietary supplement as claimed in claim 30 where the β -casein content of the milk is substantially comprised of β -casein A2.

32. (previously presented) A method for reducing the incidence in a population of at least one of the group comprising (a) type I diabetes, (b) type II diabetes, (c) cardiovascular disease, (d) cerebrovascular disease, (e) peripheral vascular disease, (f) neural tube defects, and (g) degeneration of blood vessel walls, comprising supplying to the population a dietary supplement as claimed in claim 28.

33-36. (canceled)